



## **NT4CM Frequently Asked Questions**

**August 29, 2007**

### **What is National Training for Counselors and Mentors?**

National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) is a program developed by Federal Student Aid, the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), and the National Council of Higher Education Loan Programs (NCHELP). This free, annual training program is designed to provide counselors and mentors with information and materials that will help them more effectively advise students and their families about how to prepare financially for college.

### **Why was NT4CM established?**

NT4CM recognizes that counselors and mentors are an essential link in delivering critical financial aid information to students and their families—information that can often make the difference in a student's ability to attend college. Since these professionals play such a pivotal role and have limited time to focus on the process of financial aid, these one-day training sessions will provide participants with comprehensive and up-to-date information and tools regarding federal and state aid programs available to students. NT4CM is designed to maximize the resources available to counselors and mentors in a short, yet comprehensive training program.

### **What are the benefits of attending NT4CM?**

In addition to gaining up-to-date information, materials, and resources regarding federal and state financial aid programs, participants will also have valuable opportunities to network and share knowledge and experiences with other counselors and mentors. And, since those completing the program will be prepared to offer especially able assistance to students and their families, participants will receive a National Training for Counselors and Mentors' Certificate of Completion at the program's conclusion. Because the world of student aid is a dynamic one, participants will also receive e-newsletters, e-mails, and additional supporting materials from Federal Student Aid, NASFAA, and NCHELP designed to keep them in the loop regarding ongoing developments.

### **Who is eligible to participate?**

NT4CM is appropriate for any individual who advises students and their families about funding education beyond high school.

### **How do I register?**

Registration has begun for some participating states. For some states, registration will not be available until we get closer to the training dates. The Registration page at [www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/nt4cmreg](http://www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/nt4cmreg) will show which states have registration available and will provide a link to that state's registration. For states that do not have registration available yet, the Registration page will provide the dates for when registration will be available.

### **Where and when will the training workshops be held?**

Training workshops will be offered annually and will take place initially in states electing to participate in the NT4CM launch. Participating states will either provide training using the NT4CM materials in their entirety or will incorporate portions of the materials into their existing training programs. The training will typically take place from October through December although some states may offer the training before October or after December. Please visit the Registration page at [www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/nt4cmreg](http://www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/nt4cmreg) for a list of states participating this year.

### **What if my state is not participating?**

States not participating in the initial NT4CM launch may provide other training programs for counselors and mentors. The State Training Programs page at [www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/clcf/NT4CMStateTrainingPrograms.html](http://www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/clcf/NT4CMStateTrainingPrograms.html) provides information on other state training programs and/or contact information for determining if additional state training programs are available.

### **Can I still benefit from the NT4CM if I am unable to attend a training program?**

Training materials on which the workshops are based will be available for download in the fall from the Materials and Resources page at <http://www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/clcf/NT4CMResources.html>. These materials will offer you valuable information and tools even if you are unable to attend a workshop in person. Please check back in the fall for more information.

### **Is there a cost to attend the NT4CM workshops?**

The training sessions are free.

### **What is a typical schedule for the workshops?**

Visit [www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/clcf/attachments/WorkshopAgendaColor.pdf](http://www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/clcf/attachments/WorkshopAgendaColor.pdf) for a sample workshop agenda. Participating states will follow this agenda in its entirety or will incorporate portions of the agenda into their existing training programs.

### **How can I learn more about NT4CM?**

For more information about NT4CM, go to Federal Student Aid's [www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/nt4cm](http://www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov/nt4cm) Web site. The Web site, particularly registration, will be updated periodically, so be sure to check back regularly.